

Important Information Regarding Admission Due to COVID-19 (September 2020)

P/NP Grade for Prerequisites – Spring 2020

Many colleges switched to remote instruction midway through the Spring semester as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and Haas made the decision to allow applicants to take prerequisites P/NP during Spring 2020. We will not penalize applicants for the adoption of P/NP during Spring 2020 or reward applicants for taking courses for a letter grade. The admission committee will only factor into their decision whether or not the applicant completed the prerequisite with either a C- or higher if completed for a letter grade or P if taken for P/NP. Any prerequisite taken prior to or after Spring 2020 must be taken for a letter grade.

Optional Essay

Many students are anxious and concerned about their ability to put forth a strong application because of disruptions caused by the pandemic. For the continuing UC Berkeley pool, the admission committee will add an essay to the application for students to explain how they have been impacted by the pandemic. Use the essay to explain how your academics or your plans to engage in activities or internships have been affected. You may even consider using the essay as an opportunity to describe how your family responsibilities have changed as a result of the pandemic. Transfer and GMP applicants should consider using the optional essay included in the UC application.

Application Review

We will continue to use a comprehensive review when evaluating applications. The admission committee is well aware of how the pandemic has disrupted academic plans and affected your ability to engage in activities and secure internships. When evaluating applications we will make decisions based on the context of your individual circumstances. With that being said it's important to provide the admission committee with as much context as possible by using the optional essay. The additional detail will help the admission committee make a more informed decision.